



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tallgrass Prairie
National Preserve

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Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve News Release

April 15, 2011
For Immediate Release
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Junior Rangers Kick Off Tallgrass Prairie's Summer Schedule




Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve will celebrate Junior Ranger Day on Saturday April 23, 2011 with a morning filled with fun and educational Junior Ranger activities. "Let's Play Outside and Learn" activities run from 9 a.m. to noon. Kids will earn a Jr. Ranger badge, patch, and certificate during an official Jr. Ranger swearing-in ceremony at 10 a.m. in the barn.

Schedule for Saturday, April 23, 2011

9 a.m. – 10 a.m.	Jr. Ranger <i>Leave No Trace Scavenger Hunt</i> around the ranch
10 a.m. – 11 a.m.	<i>Citizen Science Animal Track Identification</i> along the Southwind Nature Trail
11 a.m. – 12 noon	Bison hike to Windmill Pasture

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



Beginning Saturday, April 30, 2011 the preserve will continue its ninety-minute daily bus tours of the prairie. Bus tours run from the last Saturday in April through the last Sunday in October. The first bus tour leaves at 11 a.m. with additional tours at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. if staffing and weather conditions allow. The bus tour takes visitors 3.2 miles out to a prairie overlook for a 360 degree look at the prairie's intricate system of plants, animals, and the unique vistas found in the Flint Hills. Along the way rangers and volunteers discuss the flora, fauna, and geology of the tallgrass prairie, American Indians, bison, and the legacy of ranching. A minimum of two passengers per bus tour is required. All activities at the preserve are free of charge.

Due to major construction at the ranch this summer, visitors are encouraged to call ahead for program and tour availability. The rangers can be reached at 620-273-8494.

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is located two miles north of Strong City on Kansas State Highway 177 (the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway). For more information or to make group reservations, visit the preserve's website at www.nps.gov/tapr, email tapr_interpretation@nps.gov, or call the preserve at (620) 273-8494. Superintendent Wendy Lauritzen can be reached at the Cottonwood Falls office headquarters at 620-273-6034.

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